



Council urges mayor to push for I-10 funds

Elias C. Arnold

The Arizona Republic

Sept. 5, 2007 11:54 AM

The Avondale City Council on Tuesday evening urged its mayor to push for more money from the Maricopa Association of Governments in the fight over state funding for the accelerated widening of Interstate 10.

Avondale, Litchfield Park and Goodyear were left with a \$4 million bill for the Southwest Valley project after the MAG regional council dedicated only 60 percent of the \$10 million the Legislature had earmarked for the freeway expansion.

"To find out this happened, to me, was almost unbelievable," Avondale Councilman Frank Scott said. "All we did was deal with the cards that were dealt to us."

Council members told Mayor Marie Lopez Rogers, Avondale's regional council representative, they felt they had played by the rules and the project deserved the funding set aside by the Legislature.

The council varied on what funding level to push for, though all said they wanted more than \$6 million

Goodyear last week agreed to pay its \$2.1 million share of the overhang, though the Avondale and Litchfield Park mayors had been unsure their councils would agree to cover the \$1.4 million and \$110,000, respectively. The Litchfield Park council votes on the issue tonight.

The three Southwest Valley cities had previously agreed to pay the \$10 million, but the Legislature allocated money to offset costs.

The funds are needed to pay additional interest incurred by starting the project before its scheduled start in 2011.

Commuters passing through the Southwest Valley drive on as few as two lanes in each direction, creating immense gridlock. The proposed freeway widening would expand the number of lanes to up to five in each direction.

Post a Comment

This is a public comment zone. Readers are solely responsible for the content of their posts and must comply with our [Terms of Service](#) and [Rules of Engagement](#). Report offensive content by clicking on the "Report abuse" link.

[Click here](#) to post a comment

- CWSRockout
- Posted: Sep 5, 2007 at 3:13 PM
- [Report abuse](#)

This is a nice test for our incumbent mayor. If she can convince the MAG to honor its commitment, she will